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A body bag for mother nature

Fortunately, countryside some problems and elter difficult. backed away in s which wiped

destroyed... It p the hill to go just had to go three houses in at thing. We picking up and what had really

May and other d truck around e that night the ns of the city. ow listening to extent of May's now she didn't killed in the two street from her ctor" - a person ts the rent. "I t she (his wife) n her two little his office that ed and he never ings..."

nily friends and who I've gone to May recalls a e vision stands killed with her oyed. The poor unds. They had lter and she and

mbing on march es and imagine and you left and burns to ashes. the force of the he greyness and y you know as at-

W by Chantal Richard e are "faced with an ecological crisis on the scale of nuclear war" stated David Suzuki in the Chronicle-Herald, February 2, 1991.

Though environmental issues are being replaced in the headlines by an increasingly alarming in the Middle East, and admittedly, it's difficult to remember global warming while Canadian and American soldiers appear on the 6 O'clock news every night, boasting about how many bombs they've dropped, now is a crucial time for us to think of the environment.

The toll this war could take on Mother Nature seems to have been either conveniently ignored by Bush or acknowledged and dismissed as another casualty of war. As if chemical and nuclear warfare weren't enough, we now have a new weapon invented by Mr. Hussein himself: environmental warfare.

At this moment, two separate oil slicks are known to be quickly spreading over the Persian Gulf. The first is an esti-

mated 1.7 billion litres of oil moving south off the Saudi coast toward water purification plants, marine sea beds and nesting grounds for migrating birds. The second spill covers an area of approximately seven kilometers by 2.5 kilometers, and is near the Mina al-Bakr oil terminal off the Iraqi coast.

Fish and wildlife will be left to struggle and die in this mess, as no attempts can possibly be made to clean up the spill as long as this war wages on, and only sheer luck and countless precautions can save desalination plants, which produce about two-thirds of the drinking water in the gulf region.

"The U.S., with disastrously skewed priorities, spends \$300 on the military for every \$1 on the environment. Even Canada invests \$14 on national defence for every environmental dollar."
(David Suzuki, February 2, 1991, The Chronicle-Herald)

or delay a possible amphibious assault from the U.S. troops. Also, let us not forget Hussein's threat to ignite Kuwaiti oil fields in the event of an attack. The implications of such incredible masses of burning oil sending huge amounts of CO2 into the atmosphere are inestimable and might just be another fatal blow to our fragile earth.

The threat of chemical warfare is also very real. Despite what the U.S. army would like us to think, no one is quite sure how much military power Iraq has left, and we are aware that some of it lies in chemical weapons. Consequences of a chemical war would be devastating.

We might want to remember Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant used in Vietnam to destroy enemy cover. Declared by the U.S. government to be "relatively nontoxic to humans and animal", Agent Orange was discovered to contain dioxin, "the most toxic small man-made

molecule" (Fred A. Wilcox, Waiting for an army to die, p. 128) destroying most plants, birds and small animals in its path. "Vietnam's countryside is still pocked and scarred with the craters of millions of bombs while the soil remains poisoned by massive defoliants. One of Southeast Asia's richest tropical rain forests has been transformed into a barren desert while malformed babies and diseased adults continue to pay for a war two decades later. What a perverted way to use the resourceful genius of human intellect." (David Suzuki, The Chronicle-Herald, February 2, 1991.)

It almost seems like we're on a clear path to self-annihilation. How ironic, we are fighting against our own weapons and technology, sold to the enemy like our soul to the devil, and in the process we could be causing the worst environmental disasters known to history.

**no blood for oil
peace march and rally**

when: saturday, march 16
time: 11:00 am
where: in front of legislative assembly

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring placards and banners!

sponsored by the Fredericton Anti-War coalition, for more information, call 450-4466



"East River Landscape" by George Picken